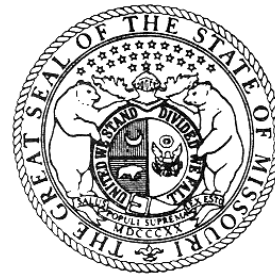


PRESS RELEASE

STATE SENATOR DAN CLEMENS – 20TH DISTRICT



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Missouri Senate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2004

End of Session Report

JEFFERSON CITY- The business climate in Missouri-whether it is farming, small business, cooperatives, or large corporations-is improving. Our area, which is the fastest growing in the state, will reap many benefits from the passage of Senate Bill 1155 during this final week of the legislative session.

We in state government and you at home must doggedly pursue ways to get back jobs into Missouri and into our district. I took a very active role in the negotiations of this bill to include numerous enterprise zones across the district and benefits towards community colleges like Ozark Technical College. This bill was signed by the Governor mere moments after its passage.

Education of our workforce is the key to our future successes. The community colleges play a big part in training the job force and we have found a way to help with the passage of Senate Bill 1155. The bill allows community college districts to enter into partnerships with employers who have retained jobs in a stable industry. The colleges will provide job training, skills assessments, and training facilities among other services to interested employers to help build the greatest tool we can have-a highly skilled and trained workforce.

In Senate Bill 1155, I also worked to set up enterprise zones in Douglas County, Webster County, and the area between Nixa and Ozark. It was high time that these areas experienced the benefits that more than 70 other areas of the state have had for years. The tools we have given these areas will help to maintain and build the workforce for a long time to come.

I also voted to support the extension of the current Springfield enterprise zone.

This bill also includes provisions for creating parks and cultural districts, implements an aggressive infrastructure development program.

This bill will go a long way towards adding fuel to our Southwest Missouri economic engine.

Well, I am not a rookie anymore and I hope you feel that in my first two years as your Senator, my staff and I have done a good job. I want to say to you, the people of the 20th district how pleased we are with all of your support and cooperation. I feel that these first two years have provided me with an opportunity to work to bring our Southwest Missouri district the voice and

benefits it has long deserved. There is still plenty to be done and it seems new challenges present themselves daily, but we are up to the fight!

I want to take a minute and thank my staff for the great job that they do. The old saying goes, “as your help goes, so go you” and this staff makes even me look good.

With the closing of this legislative session, we have already begun working on bills to pursue next year. If there is any item of interest to you that may possibly need a legislative fix, feel free to call or email and let us know.

Please remember that even though I will soon be back to playing catch-up on the farm for the summer I, along with my staff, am always available to work with you on any question, problem, or concern you may have with state government. Call me at 1-866-242-0810, or email me at dan_clemens@senate.state.mo.us, we will be fully staffed all throughout the interim session.